



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Long-term Closure of Blaine St. Bridge Begins for Continued work on 60/91/215 Project

Riverside – The California Department of Transportation, Caltrans will close the Blaine St./Third Street Bridge over the 60/215 freeway, starting on Nov. 2 at 9 p.m. until late August 2006. A new bridge will be completed and ready for use at that time. This closure is part of the ongoing work to complete the \$317 million 60/91/215 Freeway Improvement Project.

Motorists who normally use the Blaine St. Bridge to access John North High School and nearby businesses are advised to use the recently opened Iowa St. and Linden Ave. bridges. The freeway on and off ramps that service Blaine St. will remain open for the duration of the bridge reconstruction process. However, the ramps are subject to occasional short-term closures. For initial staging, the ramps will be closed at various times from Nov. 2 at 9 p.m. through 5 a.m. Nov. 3.

The Blaine St. Bridge closure would normally take about 18 months if motorists were allowed to continue using the bridge during the construction process. Since the bridge will be completely closed traffic, construction crews will be able to finish the job from six to nine months sooner.

Motorists are advised to get around the work area by exiting the freeway at University Ave. and going west to Chicago Ave. Motorists can then turn north or south on Chicago Ave. to access local businesses and neighborhoods.

Caltrans distributes weekly closure information on the project via e-mail to interested parties. Call Caltrans Public Affairs at (909) 383-6733 to be added to the list of e-mail subscribers. Please visit the Web page: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/60/91/215> for construction updates on this project. Caltrans advises motorists to drive with extra caution, stay, alert and always ***Slow for the Cone Zone.***

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